

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EURE-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05

CIAE-00 PM-03 DODE-00 IO-06 SP-02 L-01 /045 W
-----101622Z 019465 /43

P R 101320Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7815

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION NATO

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, TU, CY, US

SUBJECT: HANDLING OF THE CYPRUS QUESTION PENDING FORMATION
OF NEW GOT

1. MFA CYPRUS-GREECE DIRECTOR GENERAL TULUMEN, IN A DISCUSSION
WITH EMBOFF JUNE 9, GAVE HIS VIEWS ON HOW THE U.S. MIGHT BEST
APPROACH THE CYPRUS PROBLEM DURING A POSSIBLY PROLONGED
PERIOD OF UNCERTAINTY BEFORE A NEW TURKISH GOVERNMENT IS
FORMED. TULUMEN ASKED THAT HIS VIEWS BE PROTECTED.

2. GENERAL: THE USG SHOULD KEEP IN MIND, TULUMEN SAID,
THAT DURING A PERIOD OF CARETAKER GOVERNMENT, THE MFA
"TECHNICIANS" DEALING WITH CYPRUS WILL BE AFRAID OF
BURNING THEIR HANDS IF THEY UNDERTAKE SIGNIFICANT
INITIATIVES WITHOUT POLITICAL BACKING. HOWEVER, THIS
PROBLEM DOES NOT MAKE ALL PROGRESS IMPOSSIBLE, BECAUSE
WHATEVER MOVEMENT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED IN THE PAST SIX MONTHS,
SO FAR AS THE TURKISH POSITION IS CONCERNED, IS A CREDIT TO
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THE COURAGE OF MFA SECGEN MFA SECGEN ELEKDAG AND THE OFFICERS
UNDER HIM -- WITH LITTLE SUPPORT FROM THE POLITICIANS. ANOTHER
FACTOR IS THAT TURKISH CYPRIOT LEADER DENKTASH'S INFLUENCE ON
THE POLITICAL PARTIES WILL BE ENHANCED BECAUSE OF THE WEAKNESS
OF THE ANKARA GOVERNMENT. IF THE NATIONAL SALVATION PARTY (NSP)
BECOMES A MEMBER OF THE GOVERNMENT, IT WILL PUT A BRAKE ON
FORWARD MOVEMENT ON THE CYPRUS ISSUE, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER

ERBAKAN REMAINS AS ITS CHAIRMAN. IT SHOULD ALSO BE KEPT IN MIND THAT EVERY PARTY HAS CERTAIN MEMBERS WHO WOULD TEND TO ACT AS BRAKES, ALTHOUGH THE EFFECT WOULD NOT BE SO STRONG AS WITH THE NSP.

3. CYPRUS TALKS:

A. TULUMEN SAID THAT DENKTASH WOULD BE UNWILLING TO MAKE ANY TERRITORIAL CONCESSIONS WITHOUT PRESSURE FROM ANKARA, AND THEREFORE IT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT TO DEAL WITH THE TERRITORIAL ISSUE IN THE CYPRUS TALKS SO LONG AS ONLY A CARETAKER GOVERNMENT IS IN OFFICE IN ANKARA. ON THE OTHER HAND, HE POINTED OUT, THERE IS AMPLE ROOM FOR THE CYPRUS NEGOTIATORS TO DISCUSS CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES. FURTHERMORE, WORKING OUT AGREEMENT ON THESE ISSUES AND DRAFTING A NEW CONSTITUTION WILL TAKE CONSIDERABLE TIME IN ANY EVENT, AND THE PRESENT PERIOD COULD VERY PROFITABLY BE UTILIZED FOR THIS PURPOSE. ALSO, PROGRESS ON SETTLEMENT OF CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES COULD DO MUCH TO HELP EASE DENKTASH'S STAND ON THE TERRITORIAL QUESTION. TULUMEN THEREFORE RECOMMENDED THAT WE SEEK TO KEEP THE CYPRUS TALKS GOING ON THE BASIS THAT THEY WOULD FOCUS ON CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES, WITH FINAL AGREEMENTS DEFERRED UNTIL THEY COULD BE INCORPORATED IN A PACKAGE WITH TERRITORY.

B. THE CYPRUS NEGOTIATORS MIGHT ALSO BE ENCOURAGED TO DISCUSS PRACTICAL ISSUES RELATED TO THE TURKISH-CYPRIOTS' CURRENT COMPLAINTS ABOUT PASSPORTS AND FOREIGN CURRENCY CONTROLS. THE POSSIBLE RE-OPENING OF NICOSIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT WOULD BE ANOTHER POTENTIAL TOPIC FOR DISCUSSION.

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4. WHAT THE U.S. CAN DO:

A. TULUMEN SAID THAT THE U.S. WOULD CONTINUE TO BE THE PRINCIPAL FORCE ABLE TO MOVE THE PARTIES TOWARD A CYPRUS SETTLEMENT. HOWEVER, IT IS CRITICALLY NECESSARY THAT THE U.S. DECIDE SOON JUST WHAT EVIDENCE OF CYPRUS PROGRESS IT REALISTICALLY NEEDS AS A MINIMUM TO GET THE DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT (DCA) PASSED BY CONGRESS. FURTHER U.S. EFFORTS SHOULD BE AIMED TOWARD REACHING THAT MINIMUM.

B. TULUMEN RECOMMENDED THAT THE U.S. STRENGTHEN ITS INITIAL POSITION WITH WHATEVER NEW TURKISH GOVERNMENT IS FORMED BY PREPARING NOW TO MAKE SOME GESTURE THAT WOULD BE TAKEN AS UNMISTAKABLE EVIDENCE OF U.S. INTEREST IN IMPROVING RELATIONS. THIS GESTURE COULD BE MADE EITHER JUST BEFORE OR JUST AFTER THE NEW GOVERNMENT TAKES OFFICE. HE HAD NO CONCRETE SUGGESTION AS TO THE FORM OF THE GESTURE OTHER THAN ALLUSIONS TO CONGRESSIONAL ACTION ON MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO TURKEY AND THE ISSUE OF F-4'S.

C. A FURTHER VISIT TO THE AREA BY SECRETARY CLIFFORD SHOULD BE DEFERRED UNTIL A NEW GOVERNMENT HAS A CHANCE TO GET ITS FEET ON THE GROUND, TULUMEN SAID. IT WOULD NOT BE ADVISABLE TO MAKE SUCH A VISIT THEFIRST OR EVEN THE SECOND ITEM OF BUSINESS OF A NEW GOVERNMENT.

5. GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS: TULUMEN BELIEVED THAT THE AEGEAN DISPUTE COULD BE KEPT QUIET DURING THE CARETAKER GOVERNMENT PERIOD. ONE REASON FOR THIS BELIEF, HE SAID, WAS THAT AT THE RECENT PARIS TALKS ON THE AEGEAN SEABED QUESTION, THE GREEK SIDE'S ATTITUDE HAD MADE HIM MORE HOPEFUL THAN EVER BEFORE THAT THERE COULD BE PROGRESS TOWARD A SETTLEMENT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ANKARA04484
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770207-1142
Format: TEL
From: ANKARA
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770671/aaaacjxb.tel
Line Count: 129
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8b09ee7f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2206655
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HANDLING OF THE CYPRUS QUESTION PENDING FORMATION OF NEW GOT
TAGS: PFOR, TU, CY, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8b09ee7f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009